Revitalization Public Presentation

July 10, 2007

Ninety Six is a town that was built around the railroad and cotton Mills. Over the past ten years, Ninety Six like other rural towns has experienced textile and related business closings resulting in a loss of jobs. As a result, our town has experienced a deterioration of our Main Street businesses and buildings. Like other rural communities, we are engaged in revitalization efforts to renew our downtown and make it attractive to both our existing and new businesses. As a result of this renewal, we would like to see new employment and improved shopping.

The keys to a successful revitalization is community support and planning. Your presence here this evening is a show of community interest and support. Our planning Process started months ago with the organization of the Ninety Six Preservation and Revitalization Taskforce. The Taskforce consists of representatives from the 96 Town Council, the H96DA and the 96 Chamber of Commerce. ***Our vision as a taskforce is to improve the quality of the Town of Ninety Six through conservation, historic* preservation*, tourism and economic revitalization***. In order to move forward, we need a master plan. To help us with the plan, we sought the assistance of Mr. Walter Harris, Rural Development Project Coordinator for Clemson Institute for Economic and Community Development. Walter has prepared for us a proposal for the Town of Ninety Six, which he will discuss shortly. The proposal provides us with plan for our future. We as a community must be willing to invest in our future. Invest means dollars and time. The cost attached to the proposal is $29,333. As I mentioned earlier, community support is one of the keys to a successful revitalization and I am proud to announce to you that through the support of our Ninety Six businesses, the Town of Ninety Six, The 96 Chamber of Commerce and Greenwood County we have $28,533 pledged toward the $29,333. With a July 15 pledge deadline, I have no doubt that the pledge balance will be reached . Thank you for your support and your investment into our Town of Ninety Six.

Also, I would like to mention that on June 29, 2007 the 96 Chamber of Commerce was awarded a competitive grant in the amount of $29,325. The purpose of the request is to improve the streetscape on Cambridge Street and Main Street promoting increased tourism and economic development. The grant monies will be applied to the streetscape recommendations per the proposal.